



Our Lady of Purgatory



Maronite Catholic Church

October 14-15, 2023

FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER THE HOLY CROSS

FOOD FOR THOUGHT IN THE MIDST OF WAR AND CONFLICT

“Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.” Matthew 25:40

Who is that “least brother?” It’s interesting that Jesus specifically points to the person considered the least, as opposed to a more general statement that includes all people. Why not say, “Whatever you do to others...?” This would include all whom we serve. But instead Jesus pointed to the least brother. Perhaps this should be seen, especially, as the most sinful person, the weakest, the most gravely ill, the incapacitated, the hungry and the homeless, and all those who have pronounced needs in this life.

The most beautiful and touching part about this statement is that Jesus *identifies* Himself with the person in need, the “least” of all. By serving those in special need, we are serving Jesus. But for Him to be able to say that, He has to be intimately united with these people. And by showing such an intimate connection to them, Jesus reveals their infinite dignity as persons.

This is such an important point to grasp! In fact, this has been a central theme in the constant teachings of St. John Paul II, Pope Benedict XVI, and especially Pope Francis. An invitation to constant focus upon the dignity and value of the person must be the central message we take from this passage.

Reflect, today, upon the dignity of each and every person. Try to call to mind anyone you may fail to look at with perfect respect. Who is it you look down upon and roll your eyes at? Who is it you judge or disdain? It is within this person,

more than any other, that Jesus waits for you. He waits to meet you and to have you love Him in the weak and the sinner. Reflect upon their dignity. Identify the person who fits this description the most in your life and commit yourself to love and serve them. For in them you will love and serve our Lord.

Dear Lord, I do understand and believe that You are present, in hidden form, in the weakest of the weak, the poorest of the poor and in the sinner in our midst. Help me to diligently seek You out in each and every person I encounter, especially those in most need. As I find You, may I love You and serve You with my whole heart. Jesus, I trust in You.

<https://catholic-daily-reflections.com/2020/03/01/serving-christ-in-others-2/>

FEAST OF SAINT LONGINUS



St. Longinus is the centurion who pierced the side of Our Lord while He was hanging on the Cross. St. Longinus, who was nearly blind, was healed when some

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

“Lord, make me an instrument of your peace; where there is hatred, let me sow love; where there is injury, pardon; where there is doubt, faith; where there is despair, hope; where there is darkness, light; and where there is sadness, joy.”

Saint Francis of Assisi



of the blood and water from Jesus fell into his eyes. It was then he exclaimed "Indeed, this was the Son of God!" [Mark 15:39]. St. Longinus then converted, Left the army, took instruction from the apostles and became a monk in Cappadocia. There he was arrested for his faith, his teeth forced out and tongue cut off. However, St. Longinus miraculously continued to speak clearly and managed to destroy several idols in the presence of the governor. The governor, who was made blind by the demons that came from the idols, had his sight restored when St. Longinus was being beheaded, because his blood came in contact with the governors' eyes. St. Longinus' relics are now in the church of St Augustine, in Rome. His Lance is contained in one of the four pillars over the altar in the Basilica of St Peter's in Rome.

https://www.catholic.org/saints/saint.php?saint_id=11

Fr. Vincent Farhat, Pastor | Rev. Mr. Jean Mattar, Deacon

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Email: ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com | **Facebook Page:** Our Lady of Purgatory Catholic Church - Maronite Rite

OFFICE HOURS: The Church office will be open Monday through Thursday from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm.

WELCOME TO THE FLOCK OF CHRIST

Congratulations to Therese Rafka Barbour who received Baptism and Confirmation last weekend. We congratulate her parents Joshua and Rafka Barbour, Godparents Jacob Barbour and Susan Hage, her grandparents Jacques and Amal Barbour and Pierre and Sousou Hage, great-grandparents, aunts, uncles, and family members.

May Almighty God bless Therese all her days and keep her in His loving arms. Mabrook!

VETERANS DAY REMEMBRANCE

On November 5, the Consecration and Renewal of the Church, we will celebrate Divine Liturgy in honor of our veterans who have served from our parish. The new plaques that were updated and restored with the names of those men and women who served from Our Lady of Purgatory will be displayed in the new Church Hall. There will also be a breakfast immediately following Divine Liturgy.

Veterans Day pays tribute to all American veterans—living or dead—but especially gives thanks to living veterans who served their country honorably during war or peacetime. We thank our veterans for their honorable service, and we pray for the fallen heroes who have served to uphold peace, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness for others.

PLANNING FOR THE MOVE

As we begin to complete the renovations at the new church, we have put together a schedule to transition to the property on Acushnet. After meeting with the contractors this past week, we will be celebrating our final Divine Liturgy on Franklin Street the weekend of October 28th and 29th.

The following week, the remaining sacred vessels and treasures of the Church will be moved, and we will celebrate the Consecration and Renewal of the Church at our new Church the weekend of November 4th and 5th.

We will never forget the beautiful memories that have been made over the many years on Franklin Street. I hope and pray that we can begin this new journey of faith filled with many beautiful new memories while maintaining those that will always be in our hearts.

FAMILY PICTURES FOR DEDICATION PROGRAM

As we move closer to completion of the new Church construction, Bishop Gregory has set aside December 8-10, for the dedication of the new Church and Church grounds. That weekend will be filled with many activities and functions, including a Commemorative Church Dedication Program.

Along with many pages of the history of OLOP, it will also include family pictures for each family in the parish. I am asking each of you to please email me a very good quality picture of you and your family to include in this program book. We need to have these pictures by Sunday, November 5, 2023.

For those of you who do not have a current picture, Bruce David and Beth David have offered their services to take your family picture after the Divine Liturgy on Saturday, November 4, after the 4:30 PM Liturgy, as well as on Sunday, November 5, after the 10:30 AM Liturgy. I thank both of them in advance for their talents and help. I am hoping that every family will send a picture for this special booklet. Should you have any questions, please contact me at the office.

2023 CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

The Christmas Bazaar is now underway for planning. This year our bazaar will be held on Saturday, November 11, from 10AM- 6PM, and Sunday, November 12, from 10AM- 3PM. Baked Kibbee presale is now available online or by using the order forms. **The kibbee trays are \$35.00 each. All presale orders for kibbee must be in the office by Sunday, October 22, 2023,** so that we can prepare accordingly. You may order online, or contact:

Smitty Cabral (508-961-8599), Hiba Chdid (508-617-3888), or the Church office (508-996-8934).

If anyone would like to donate Holiday raffle baskets, items for the Caravan Auction, or monetary donations for the food, we would certainly appreciate this. More details will follow next week. Please mark your calendars and join us for this beautiful celebration.

SAINT JOSEPH SODALITY NEWS

Sodality will sponsor the Festival of Trees during the Christmas Bazaar, if you would like to help please see Amal Barbour.

2023 CHILDREN'S CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

It is that time of year as we begin to prepare for the 2023 Children's Christmas Pageant which will be held on **December 9, 2023.** Children of all ages are encouraged to participate in this beautiful expression of love and dedication. Please register your children for this special event in the life of the Church. This year will be performed for Bishop Gregory and our invited guests as we celebrate our dedication that weekend. I look forward to seeing all of our children participate, spreading the joy of Christ's birth to our community and beyond. For more information, please contact Fr. Vincent or Matthew Thomas.

NEEDED GIFTS FOR THE CARAVAN AUCTION, BASKET RAFFLES, SILENT AUCTION AND THE KID'S ZONE GAMES FOR THE CHILDREN



Items needed include:

Electronics, housewares, giftware, tools, gift cards, gift baskets, sporting event tickets, jewelry, toys, sporting goods etc. We also need small children's gifts for the game tables such as:

Books, coloring books and crayons or markers, small cars and trucks, dolls, stuffed toys, puzzles models, games etc. We need gifts of various values from \$2-\$25, \$25-\$50 and \$50 and up.

If you wish to donate but have no time to shop, you can donate the money and we will shop for you.

All help in any amount is greatly appreciated.

ARABIC CLASSES TO BEGIN IN OCTOBER

I am happy to inform our community that we will begin Arabic classes for beginners on October 24, at 6:30 PM for the adults and on October 26, at 6:30 PM for the youth. This class will include writing, reading, and speaking the Arabic language.

If you are interested in taking these classes, please fill out the registration forms and return them back to the Church office. contact the church office via email at: ourladyofpurgatory@gmail.com or drop them in the collection basket. Thank you.

LITURGY INTENTIONS

Saturday, October 14, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Isaiah the Monk). Liturgy is being offered for the souls of the deceased members of the Kenyon and Daher families requested by family. May their souls rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charles Murray requested by Mariam David and family. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, October 15, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Saint Teresa of Avila, Doctor of the Church). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Joseph Chedid requested by family. May his soul rest in peace.

Saturday, October 21, @ 4:30 PM, (Feast of Saint Hilarion of Tabatha). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Anne Abraham requested by Michael and Diane LeBlanc. May her soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Charlie Murray requested by Lou and Smitty Cabral. May his soul rest in peace.

Sunday, October 22, @ 10:30 AM, (Feast of Pope Saint John Paul II). Liturgy is being offered for the soul of Atty. George M. Thomas requested by Reggie Thomas and family. May his soul rest in peace. Liturgy is being offered for Boutros Bou Ramia requested by family. May his soul rest in peace.

WINE AND HOST OFFERING

The altar bread and wine for the month of October is offered for Joe and Tillie Thomas requested by family.

THE SANCTUARY CANDLE BURNS FOR....

This week the sanctuary candle burns for a special intention by Rose David. Anyone who would like to offer the sanctuary candle for a loved one or special intention, this will be offered each week. An offering of a \$10.00 donation is appreciated.

IN OUR PRAYERS

Magda Moosa, Alice Daher, Sister Juanita Marie, Sharon Conti, David Techlin, Debbie Freedenberg, Josephine Chedid, Efrangieh Daou, Reggie Thomas, Peter Helmer, Renee Helmer, Natalya Sarkis, Octavia David, Jacob Rego, Amal Assaf, Denise Magaletta, Fernanda Thomas, Angela Scorza-Anderson, Theresa John, Laurette Bou Ramia, Annie Peter, Mariam David, Norma Thomas, Zita Drouin, Lucienne Rodrigues, Edmond Salameh, Ed Da Rocha, and Alice Daher. If anyone is missing from this list, please contact the Church office.

SPECIAL CONCERT

FEATURING RAFCA FARES

Saint Anthony Church in Lawrence, Massachusetts will be sponsoring this special concert.

Proceeds will help benefit Saint Joseph Monastery and the Tomb of Saint Rafqa in Lebanon. This concert will be held on October 21, 2023, at 8:00 PM, and will feature the beautiful voice of Rafca Fares. Please see the flyer for ticket information.

LECTORS FOR OCTOBER 2023

Saturday, October 14,

Annemarie Espindola
Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, October 15,

Ann Dupre / Gaby Baroody

Saturday, October 21,

Rachel Higgins

Intercessions: Anna and Helen Higgins

Sunday, October 22,

Mae Dickinson / Jano Baroody

Saturday, October 28,

Smitty Cabral

Intercessions: Eric Tavares

Sunday, October 29,

Ann Dupre / Hiba Chdid

(If you are not able to read on your given day, please contact Mae Dickinson).

FINANCE COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Jimmy Kalife, Wassim Chedid, Rose Dupre, Rana Choubah, Nigel Hitchings, and Joseph Barckett.

PARISH COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Fadi Bark, Johnny Kalife, Vicki Thomas Marini, Jacques Barbour, and Smitty Cabral.

WEEK OF OCTOBER 7-8, 2023

Sunday Collection	\$ 1,042.00
Bazaar Raffle	\$ 300.00
Bazaar Food Donations	\$ 130.00
Donations	\$ 100.00
Coffee Hour	\$ 50.00
Sanctuary Candle	\$ 10.00
Candles	\$ 41.00
Total	\$ 1,673.00

THANK YOU FOR YOUR KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY BY SENDING IN YOUR WEEKLY COLLECTIONS VIA MAIL. THIS HAS BEEN VERY HELPFUL FOR THE CHURCH. GOD BLESS YOU AND YOUR FAMILY.

CHRISTOPHE CHEDID
Business Owner



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Eternally in our hearts and in our thoughts. We miss seeing your face, hearing your voice, seeing your smile and hearing your laugh. We cherish the day we will join you in GOD's Heavenly Kingdom. We Love you and miss you even more with each passing day.

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